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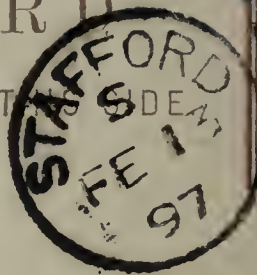
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TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF STAFFORD.

F. MILNES BLUMER,

B.A. Dunelm, M.B. & C.M. Edin.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1896.

STAFFORD :

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Stafford,

13th April, 1897.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the health of Stafford for the year 1896.

While it is a matter of regret that the Birth-rate should continue to decrease, it is at the same time one of congratulation that the year has been one of the healthiest on record. The Death-rate was only 13·81 per 1,000, one which will bear comparison with any town in the country of an equal or greater size.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. MILNES BLUMER.

REPORT.

SECTION 1.

*Vital Statistics, together with Remarks on the Mortality
during the year.*

SECTION I.
—

Area.—The Borough of Stafford contains an area of Area.
1,084 acres.

Population.— Estimated to the middle of the year 1896, Population.
the population, including the Public Institutions, was 21,378,
and was distributed as follows :—

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Stafford Borough | ... | ... | 19,565 |
| County Asylum | ... | ... | 1028 |
| Workhouse | ... | ... | 280 |
| H.M. Prison | ... | ... | 505 |
| Total in the Institutions | ... | ... | 1,813 |
| Total | | | 21,378* |

The population gives an average density of 19·7
persons per acre.

*The **Corrected Rates** are reckoned upon a population of 19 900. obtained
by deducting 1.478 from the total, that being the proportion of those in the
Institutions who do not belong to the Borough.

Births.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year was 591, of which 329 were males and 262 were females. This is equal to an annual rate of 29·69 per 1,000. In previous reports I have drawn attention to the progressive decrease in the Birth returns, and the rate this year is the lowest recorded of any year, except 1890, and is 2·09 below the average rate of the preceding ten years.

BIRTH RETURNS FROM 1886 TO 1896.

| Year. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Rate per 1000 |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|---------------|
| 1886 | 349 | 322 | 671 | 35·54 |
| 1887 | 330 | 338 | 668 | 33·85 |
| 1888 | 299 | 291 | 590 | 31·17 |
| 1889 | 311 | 281 | 592 | 30·11 |
| 1890 | 286 | 282 | 568 | 29·40 |
| 1891 | 334 | 264 | 598 | 31·92 |
| 1892 | 281 | 314 | 595 | 31·31 |
| 1893 | 290 | 286 | 576 | 30·45 |
| 1894 | 314 | 329 | 643 | 33·74 |
| 1895 | 317 | 283 | 600 | 30·38 |
| <i>Yearly Average 1886-95</i> | 311·1 | 299 | 610·1 | 31·78 |
| 1896 | 329 | 262 | 591 | 29·69 |

Deaths.

Deaths.—The total number of Deaths registered during the year was 410. This includes 239 males and 171 females, and gives a death-rate of 19·10 per 1000. Of this number of deaths, however, 135 were those of persons who did not belong to the Borough previous to their admission into one or other of the Public Institutions. This reduces the number of Deaths for the Borough to 275, and gives a **Corrected Death-rate** of 13·81.

Death-rate.

DEATH RETURNS FROM 1886 TO 1896.

| Year | Males. | Females | Total. | Non-Residents. | Residents. | Corrected Rate per 1000 |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|----------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1886 | 258 | 208 | 466 | 131 | 335 | 17·71 |
| 1887 | 224 | 167 | 391 | 121 | 270 | 13·68 |
| 1888 | 252 | 182 | 434 | 110 | 324 | 16·97 |
| 1889 | 227 | 246 | 473 | 138 | 335 | 17·04 |
| 1890 | 223 | 174 | 397 | 124 | 273 | 14·13 |
| 1891 | 245 | 184 | 429 | 139 | 290 | 15·48 |
| 1892 | 252 | 199 | 451 | 131 | 320 | 16·84 |
| 1893 | 261 | 222 | 483 | 151 | 332 | 17·54 |
| 1894 | 225 | 176 | 401 | 163 | 238 | 12·48 |
| 1895 | 258 | 240 | 498 | 165 | 333 | 16·86 |
| <i>Yearly Average 1886-95</i> | 242·5 | 199·8 | 442·3 | 137·3 | 305 | 15·87 |
| 1896 | 239 | 171 | 410 | 135 | 275 | 13·81 |

From the above Table it will be seen that the death-rate this year is 3·05 lower than that of last year, and 2·06 below the average rate of the preceding ten years.

The 275 deaths were returned in Quarters, thus:—

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------|-------|--------------------|
| 1st Quarter, | 65 | Death rate | 13·06 | Quarterly Returns. |
| 2nd | 65 | „ | 13·06 | |
| 3rd | 54 | „ | 10·85 | |
| 4th | 91 | „ | 18·29 | |
| Average | 68·75 | Average | 13·81 | |

Infantile Mortality.—There were 60 deaths of infants under a year old, which is equal to a rate of 101 per 1000 registered births. In the previous year the rate was 150, and the average for the ten years, 1886 to 1895 was 130.

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE TEN YEARS
1886 TO 1895, AND IN THE YEAR 1896.

| Diseases. | 1886 | 1887 | 1888 | 1889 | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 | 1895 | Average Annual Number of Deaths in the Ten Years, 1886 to 1895. | Total Deaths in 1896. |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--------------------------------|
| Smallpox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | ... | ... |
| Measles | 6 | ... | 1 | 20 | ... | 8 | ... | ... | 2 | 10 | 4.7 | 3 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | .. | .9 | ... |
| Diphtheria and Membranous Group | .. | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | .8 | 5 |
| Whooping Cough | 7 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 18 | 2 | ... | 9 | ... | 5 | 5.4 | 2 |
| Typhoid Fever | 1 | ... | .. | 3 | ... | ... | 8 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1.5 | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever..... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .2 | ... |
| Total | 15 | 2 | 14 | 30 | 21 | 12 | 8 | 13 | 3 | 17 | 13.5 | 10 |

Zymotic Death-rate (including Diarrhoea) in 1896—.65 per thousand of the population.

Zymotic
Diseases.

I. Zymotic Diseases.

Infectious Diseases caused 10 deaths, compared with 17 in the previous year, and 13·5 the yearly average during the previous decennium. Measles caused 3, Diphtheria 5, and Whooping Cough 2. There should, however, be added to these the deaths which occurred in the Isolation Hospital, and which do not appear in the returns, as the Hospital is situated outside the district. There occurred there 6 deaths during the year, viz: Scarlet Fever 4, Typhoid Fever 1, Diphtheria 1.

Diarrhœa caused only 4 deaths, as against 10 in the previous year. Three of them were in infants under a year old.

II. Constitutional Diseases.

Phthisis.

Phthisis.—The total number of deaths from Phthisis was 58, and the **corrected** number only 29, giving a mortality rate of 1·45 per 1000. These returns are considerably below those of last year, and are also lower than the average of the preceding ten years.

| Year. | No. of Deaths. | Rate per 1000 |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1886 | 46 | 2·43 |
| 1887 | 37 | 1·87 |
| 1888 | 37 | 1·93 |
| 1889 | 35 | 1·83 |
| 1890 | 45 | 2·33 |
| 1891 | 27 | 1·44 |
| 1892 | 31 | 1·63 |
| 1893 | 26 | 1·37 |
| 1894 | 24 | 1·25 |
| 1895 | 43 | 2·17 |
| Yearly Average 1886-95 | 35·1 | 1·82 |
| 1896 | 29 | 1·45 |

III. Developmental Diseases.

Developmental
Diseases.

There have been 54 deaths in this class, as against 49 in the previous year, 13 being ascribed to Premature Birth, and 41 to Old Age.

IV. Local Diseases.

Local Diseases.

There were 225 deaths in this class, compared with 258 in the previous year. Diseases of the Nervous System caused 86, Diseases of the Circulatory System 50, Diseases of the Respiratory System 57, Diseases of the Digestive System 21, Diseases of the Urinary System 10, and Diseases of the Integumentary System 1.

SECTION II.

SECTION II.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—There were 148 cases notified, compared with 95 in the previous year.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

| | Notified. | Isolated. | Percentage Isolated. |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Smallpox | 3 | 3 | 100 |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 101 | 90† | 89 |
| Diphtheria | 19 | 3* | 15·7 |
| Typhoid Fever... | 8 | 2 | 25 |
| Erysipelas | 15 | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | 2 | ... | ... |

*Ten cases of Diphtheria were also treated in the Staffordshire General Infirmary.
†Two of these cases of Scarlet Fever treated in Workhouse.

Smallpox.—Two cases of Smallpox occurred simultaneously in a common Lodging House, No. 76, Foregate street, and came to my knowledge on January 14th. Both cases were isolated immediately in Hospital, and six men and a child were removed into quarantine and vaccinated. The premises were disinfected, and the landlady and two other women, who declined to go into quarantine, remained on the premises. On February 8th, a third case was reported, it being that of a young woman who had gone to the house a fortnight previously, and had contracted the disease from some clothing which had been hidden and so escaped disinfection. She was promptly isolated, and the remaining women, who had previously been vaccinated, were all removed into quarantine, and the house taken possession and again disinfected thoroughly. No fresh case occurred. As to the cause of the outbreak, it undoubtedly arose from a child who had stayed in the lodging house, and who was said to be suffering from Chicken-pox at the time.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent during the greater part of the year, 101 cases being notified, compared with 70 in the previous year. The majority of the cases occurred in the last four months, the monthly returns from January to December being 5, 2, 10, 10, 4, 6, 4, 6, 14, 11, 15, 14. Isolation in hospital was resorted to in 89 per cent. of the cases, and altogether 80 houses were infected.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria.—This disease has been more prevalent in 1896 than in previous years. After being almost entirely absent for some years, 4 cases occurred in 1895, while during last year no fewer than 19 cases were notified. Of these 6 proved fatal, giving a case mortality of 31·5 per cent. It may be noted, as perhaps being of some significance, that the incidence and prevalence of Diphtheria occurred at the time the main sewers were being laid. It has been observed in other towns, where main sewers have been laid, that diseases of a low type followed the opening of the ground and consequent disturbance of the ground air. In Stafford the ground air must have been disturbed to an unusual degree by the constant pumping which was carried on to lower the height of the subsoil water.

Typhoid Fever.

Typhoid Fever.—Only 8 cases were notified, and one of them did not belong to the district. The same number occurred in the previous year. It was impossible to isolate more than 25 per cent. on account of most of the beds in hospital being required for Scarlet Fever cases.

Isolation Hospitals.

Isolation Hospitals.—In the Smallpox Hospital 3 cases were treated, all of which recovered. In the Isolation Hospital 93 cases were treated, viz :—Scarlet Fever 88, Diphtheria 3, Typhoid Fever 2, of which 4 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 1 case each of the two latter diseases were fatal. I paid 201 visits to the Hospital during the year. In the preceding year 63 cases were isolated.

Insanitary Dwellings.

Insanitary Dwellings.—Three houses were reported by me as unfit for human habitation. In two instances necessary repairs were made, in the third case the house is closed.

Vaccination Statistics.—The subjoined figures apply to the whole of the Stafford Union, but they serve as an index of how the provisions of the Vaccination Act are being carried out :

Vaccination
Statistics.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Births in 1895 | ... | ... | 780 |
| Successfully Vaccinated | ... | ... | 639 |
| Insusceptible | ... | ... | 0 |
| Had Smallpox | ... | ... | 0 |
| Died Unvaccinated | ... | ... | 75 |
| Postponed | ... | ... | 23 |
| Removed to places unknown | ... | ... | 38 |
| Refused to be Vaccinated (summoned) | ... | ... | 5 |

Work in the Sanitary Inspector's Department.—Appended hereto is a Table giving a Summary of the work done during the year in the Sanitary Inspector's Department. The Common Lodging Houses are now inspected and reported upon by the Sanitary Inspector instead of by a Police Officer as heretofore. It is hoped that by this arrangement the work will be more satisfactorily done from a health point of view, while the necessary supervision is secured to the Police by giving the Police Officer the honorary appointment of Assistant Inspector. The Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Cow-sheds, Dairies, and Milk-shops, have been frequently visited. Disinfection of infected houses, clothing, bedding, etc., has been extensively carried out.

Work in the
Sanitary
Inspector's
Department.

The Statistical Tables required by the Local Government Board are appended.

F. MILNES BLUMER.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE INSPECTOR OF
NUISANCES' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1896, IN THE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF STAFFORD.

| | Inspections and Observa- tions, | Formal Notices by Authority. | Nuisances abated after Notice. |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dwelling- houses and Schools | <div>Foul Conditions— Houses & Back premises. 35 Structural Defects.. .. 208 Over-crowding 6 Unfit for habitation .. 3</div> | | |
| Lodging-houses | 10 | | |
| Dairies and Milkshops | 23 | | |
| Cowsheds | 23 | | |
| Bakehouses | 23 | | |
| Slaughter-houses | 94 | | |
| Houses in a clean condition | 1282 | | |
| Ashpits and Privies emptied | 765 | | |
| Deposits of Refuse and Manure | 33 | | |
| Water Closets, dilapidated or dirty | 52 | | |
| House Drainage | <div>Defective Drainage .. 164 Other Faults 9</div> | | |
| Bad Pavements in yards.. .. . | 28 | | |
| Animals improperly kept.. .. . | 18 | | |
| Offensive Trades | 2 | | |
| Smoke Nuisances | 2 | | |
| Killing Pigs on Ulicenced Premises | 8 | | |
| Totals | 2818 | 72 | 72 |

Precautions against Infectious Disease

| | | | |
|--|------|------|-----|
| Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed | .... | .... | 239 |
| Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease | .... | .... | 113 |

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the Stafford Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

| Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. | MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES. | | | | | | | MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------|-----------|---------------------|--------|
| | At all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5 | 5 & under 15 | 15 & under 25 | 25 & under 65 | 65 & upwards | | Smallpox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Membranous Croup. | Fevers. | | | | | Cholera. | Erysipelas. | Measles. | Whooping Cough. | Diarrhoea and Dysentery. | Rheumatic Fever. | Phthisis. | Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. | Heart Disease | | Injuries. | All other Diseases. | Total. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid | Contin'd | Relapsing | Puerperal | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Stafford Borough | 232 | 57 | 22 | 9 | 12 | 82 | 50 | Under 5 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 3 | 3 | .... | 5 | 13 | 1 | .... | 2 | 49 | 79 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwards | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | 23 | 27 | 21 | .... | 4 | 74 | 153 |
| County Asylum | 118 | .... | .... | .... | 8 | 79 | 31 | Under 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28 | 4 | 22 | .... | .... | 64 | 118 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwards | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Workhouse | 28 | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | 10 | 16 | Under 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 | 1 | 3 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwards | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18 | 27 |
| Infirmary | 27 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 1 | Under 5 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwards | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 4 | 1 | .... | 1 | 8 | 18 |
| H.M. Prison | 5 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 4 | ... | Under 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwards | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Totals..... | 410 | 60 | 29 | 11 | 26 | 186 | 98 | Under 5 | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 3 | 3 | .... | 5 | 15 | 1 | .... | 4 | 53 | 89 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwards | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | 59 | 38 | 47 | .... | 6 | 166 | 321 |

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|--------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Under 5 5 upwards | ..... | 2 2 | 1 ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto | 135 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 10 | 91 | 33 | Under 5 5 upwards | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 29 | 8 | 23 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 2 |

(B) *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1896, in the Stafford Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

| Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. | Population at all ages. | | Registered Births. | New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. | | | | | | | | | | | Number of such Cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital. | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|-------------|--|-------------|---------------|
| (a) | Census, 1881. | Estimated to middle of 1896. | (d) | Smallpox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria | Membranous Croup. | Typhus Fever | Enteric or Typhoid Fever | Continued Fever. | Relapsing Fever. | Puerperal Fever. | Cholera. | Erysipelas. | Smallpox. | Scarlatina. | Typhoid Fever |
| Stafford Borough | 18545 | 19565 | 591 | 3 | 99 | 9 | ..... | ..... | 7 | ..... | ... | 2 | ..... | 12 | 3 | 88 | 2 |
| County Asylum | 982 | 1028 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Workhouse | 254 | 280 | ..... | ..... | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Infirmary | Included in Borough |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| H.M. Prison | 498 | 505 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Totals | 20279 | 21378 | 591 | 3 | 101 | 19 | ..... | ..... | 8 | ..... | ..... | 2 | ..... | 15 | 3 | 88 | 2 |

“ Notification of Infectious Diseases ” compulsory in the District since 1880.
The Isolation Hospital is situated in Tillington Parish in Rural District.



